



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Contact: Darren Rogers
Senior Director, Communications & Media Services
Churchill Downs Racetrack
(502) 636-4461 (office)
(502) 345-1030 (mobile)
Darren.Rogers@KyDerby.com

CHAMPION GAME WINNER HEADS 362 EARLY TRIPLE CROWN NOMINEES

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (Wednesday, Feb. 6, 2019) – Led by unbeaten 2-year-old champion and Breeders' Cup Juvenile (Grade I) hero **Game Winner**, a total of 362 3-year-old Thoroughbreds were made eligible to compete in this year's Triple Crown during the early nomination phase, which closed Jan. 26.

Each of the 362 horses from the 2016 foal crop was made eligible through a \$600 payment to compete in any of the Triple Crown contests: the 145th running of the \$3 million Kentucky Derby presented by Woodford Reserve (Grade I) on May 4 at Churchill Downs (1 ¼ miles); the 144th running of the \$1.5 million Preakness Stakes (GI) on May 18 at Pimlico Race Course (1 3/16 miles); and the 151st running of the \$1.5 million Belmont Stakes (GI) on June 8 at Belmont Park (1 ½ miles).

The total was similar to last year when 360 were nominated at the early stage.

Gary and Mary West's Game Winner, who boasts a record of 4-4-0-0—\$1,496,000, was one of 17 horses nominated by Hall of Fame and five-time Kentucky Derby-winning trainer **Bob Baffert**. The record 15-time Classic-winner also trains Los Alamitos Futurity (GI) victor **Improbable**, who is campaigned by three-fourths of the same team that swept last year's Triple Crown with **Justify**: **WinStar Farm LLC**, **China Horse Club International Ltd.** and **Starlight Racing**.

Other prominent nominees include stakes winners: **Gray Attempt** (Smarty Jones), **Gunmetal Gray** (Sham), **Harvey Wallbanger** (Holy Bull), **Instagrاند** (Best Pal), **Knicks Go** (Breeders' Futurity), **Long Range Toddy** (Springboard Mile), **Maximus Mischief** (Remsen), **Mind Control** (Jerome), **Mucho Gusto** (Robert B. Lewis), **Signalman** (Kentucky Jockey Club), **Tax** (Withers), **Vekoma** (Nashua), **War of Will** (Lecomte) and **Win Win Win** (Pasco).

Bourbon War, **Code of Honor**, **Coliseum**, **Country House**, **Extra Hope**, **Frank'sgunisloaded**, **Global Campaign**, **Hidden Scroll**, **Jersey Agenda**, **Kentucky Wildcat**, **Limonite**, **Mucho**, **Network Effect**, **Nolo Contesto**, **Omaha Beach**, **Owendale**, **Plus Que Parfait**, **Roadster**, **Soldado**, **Tacitus** and **Walking Thunder** are just some of the numerous well-meant prospects that were made eligible for the series.

Hall of Famer **Steve Asmussen** led all trainers with 27 nominations. In addition to Baffert, **Chad Brown** and **Todd Pletcher** also had 17 nominees.

Brad Kelley's **Calumet Farm** led all owners with 13 nominations and tied with **Charles Fipke** and **Godolphin** for the most nominees among breeders with six apiece.

For the third straight year, **Tapit** was the leading sire with 19 offspring nominated. **Into Mischief** was next with 15 and was followed by **Curlin** (13), **Cairo Prince** (11) and **Uncle Mo** (11).

Four fillies were nominated, including champion 2-year-old filly and Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies (GI) winner **Jaywalk** and multiple Grade I-winner **Bellafina**.

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The nominees also include 20 horses based outside North America, including 11 from Europe, five from Dubai and four from Japan. Irish-based trainer **Aidan O'Brien** and the **Coolmore** group nominated seven, including graded stakes-winning sons of Scat Daddy, **Sergei Prokofiev** and **Van Beethoven**.

Notable horses not nominated to this year's Triple Crown include Champagne (GI) winner **Complexity** and Saratoga Special (GII) and Swale (GIII) winner **Call Paul**.

Horses not nominated to the Triple Crown during the early phase can be made eligible at www.thetriplecrown.com for \$6,000 during the late nomination period which continues through April 1. If not nominated by that date, horses can become eligible through payment of a supplemental nomination fee due at the time of entry for either the Kentucky Derby (\$200,000), Preakness (\$150,000) or Belmont (\$50,000).

Thirteen horses have swept the Triple Crown series: **Sir Barton** (1919), **Gallant Fox** (1930), **Omaha** (1935), **War Admiral** (1937), **Whirlaway** (1941), **Count Fleet** (1943), **Assault** (1946), **Citation** (1948), **Secretariat** (1973), **Seattle Slew** (1977), **Affirmed** (1978), **American Pharoah** (2015) and **Justify** (2018).

TRIPLE CROWN NOMINATION HISTORY

Year	Early Noms	Late Noms	Total Noms	NA Foal Crop	% of Foal Crop
2019	362	-	362	22,500*	1.6%
2018	360	10	370	22,936	1.6%
2017	419	6	425	22,968	1.9%
2016	368	9	377	23,242	1.6%
2015	429	9	438	23,538	1.9%
2014	414	10	424	24,939	1.7%
2013	369	13	382	28,419	1.4%
2012	398	20	418	32,364	1.3%
2011	364	13	377	35,274	1.1%
2010	366	6	372	37,499	1.0%
2009	401	11	412	38,104	1.1%
2008	449	11	460	38,365	1.2%
2007	450	10	460	37,949	1.2%
2006	426	14	440	37,067	1.2%
2005	358	14	372	35,978	1.0%
2004	434	14	448	37,901	1.2%
2003	446	8	454	37,755	1.2%
2002	405	12	417	36,929	1.1%
2001	440	7	447	36,021	1.2%
2000	387	13	400	35,143	1.1%
1999	396	11	407	35,366	1.2%
1998	384	6	390	34,983	1.1%
1997	375	13	388	35,341	1.1%
1996	354	7	361	37,140	1.0%
1995	317	7	324	38,438	0.8%
1994	354	9	363	41,804	0.9%
1993	342	25	367	44,143	0.8%
1992	389	18	407	48,235	0.8%
1991	369	8	377	49,221	0.8%
1990	315	33	348	50,917	0.7%
1989	381	13	394	51,296	0.8%
1988	381	20	401	50,430	0.8%
1987	398	24	422	49,241	0.9%
1986	422	30	452	47,236	1.0%

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2019 Early Triple Crown Nominations Released

Wednesday, Feb. 8, 2019

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GENDER

	2019	
Colts	319	88.1%
Geldings	30	8.3%
Ridglings	9	2.5%
Fillies	4	1.1%
TOTAL	362	

COLOR

	2019	
Bay	160	44.2%
Dark Bay/Brown	87	24.0%
Chestnut	73	20.2%
Gray/Roan	41	11.3%
Black	1	0.3%
TOTAL	362	

BIRTHPLACE

(United States)	2019	
Kentucky	271	74.9%
Florida	17	4.7%
New York	14	3.9%
California	9	2.5%
Maryland	6	1.7%
Virginia	6	1.7%
Pennsylvania	4	1.1%
Illinois	2	0.6%
Louisiana	2	0.6%
Texas	2	0.6%
Indiana	1	0.3%
Missouri	1	0.3%
New Mexico	1	0.3%
Oregon	1	0.3%
Washington	1	0.3%
West Virginia	1	0.3%
TOTAL	339	93.6%

BIRTHPLACE

(International)	2019	
Ontario, Canada	11	3.0%
Ireland	7	1.9%
Japan	3	0.8%
Great Britain	2	0.6%
TOTAL	23	6.4%

CAREER EARNINGS LEADERS

Game Winner	\$1,496,000
Jaywalk (f)	\$1,384,200
Bellafina (f)	\$708,000
Knicks Go	\$672,515
Signalman	\$448,990
Derma Louvre (JPN)	\$447,672
Henley's Joy	\$372,160
Long Range Toddy	\$351,125
Bankit	\$330,625
Mind Control	\$323,400

GRADE/GROUP I WINNERS (8)

Bellafina (f) (Del Mar Debutante/Chandelier)
 Game Winner (Del Mar Futurity/American Pharoah/Breeders' Cup Juvenile)
 Improbable (Los Alamitos Futurity)
 Jaywalk (f) (Frizette/Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies)
 Knicks Go (Breeders' Futurity)
 Mind Control (Hopeful)
 Royal Marine (IRE) (Prix Jean-Luc Lagardere)
 Royal Meeting (IRE) (Criterium International)

GRADE/GROUP II WINNERS (5)

Harvey Wallbanger (Holy Bull)
 Instagrand (Best Pal)
 Maximus Mischief (Remsen)
 Signalman (Kentucky Jockey Club)
 Van Beethoven (Railway)

GRADE/GROUP III WINNERS (9)

Cairo Cat (Iroquois)
 Current (Bourbon)
 Forty Under (Pilgrim)
 Gunmetal Gray (Sham)
 Mucho Gusto (Bob Hope/Robert B. Lewis)
 Sergei Prokofiev (Cornwallis)
 Tax (Withers)
 Vekoma (Nashua)
 War of Will (Lecomte)

GRADE/GROUP I PLACED (15)

Code of Honor (Champagne)
 Extra Hope (Los Alamitos Futurity)
 Gunmetal Gray (American Pharoah)
 Mucho (Hopeful)
 Mucho Gusto (Los Alamitos Futurity)
 Nitrous (Hopeful)
 Roadster (Del Mar Futurity)
 Rowayton (Del Mar Futurity/American Pharoah)
 Signalman (Breeders' Futurity/Breeders' Cup Juvenile)
 Somelikeithotbrown (Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf)
 Standard Deviation (Breeders' Futurity)
 Sydney Opera House (GB) (Criterium de Saint Cloud)
 The Irish Rover (IRE) (Phoenix)
 War of Will (Summer)
 Western Australia (IRE) (Futurity Trophy)

GRADE/GROUP II PLACED (7)

Everfast (Holy Bull)
 Limonite (Kentucky Jockey Club)
 Masaff (IRE) (KPMG Champions Juvenile)
 Network Effect (Remsen)
 Plus Que Parfait (Kentucky Jockey Club)
 Spinoff (Saratoga Special)
 Synthesis (Best Pal)

GRADE/GROUP III PLACED (12)

Easy Shot (Robert B. Lewis)
 Henley's Joy (Bourbon)
 Hog Creek Hustle (Lecomte)
 Manny Wah (Lecomte)
 Much Better (Sham)
 Not That Brady (Withers)
 Our Braintrust (Withers)
 Sir Winston (Grey)
 Strike Silver (Sanford)
 Sueno (Sham)
 Tripwire (Grey)
 Zenden (Swale)

FILLIES (4)

Bellafina (f)
 Highheelmomma (f)
 Cairo Cutie (f)
 Jaywalk (f)

WINTER BASE

Florida	109	30.1%
California	64	17.7%
Louisiana	55	15.2%
Arkansas	30	8.3%
(no recent races/workouts)	26	7.2%
New York	18	5.0%
Central Florida	16	4.4%
Ireland	8	2.2%
Maryland	7	1.9%
Dubai	5	1.4%
Japan	4	1.1%
Northern California	4	1.1%
Texas	4	1.1%
Kentucky	3	0.8%
Pennsylvania	3	0.8%
England	2	0.6%
New Mexico	2	0.6%
France	1	0.3%
Illinois	1	0.3%

BASED OUTSIDE NORTH AMERICA (20)

Admiral Rous (IRE)	Eoghan O'Neill (France)
Blenheim Palace (IRE)	Aidan O'Brien (Ireland)
Derma Louvre (JPN)	Hirofumi Toda (Japan)
Masaff (IRE)	Dermot Weld (Ireland)
Master Fencer (JPN)	Koichi Tsunoda (Japan)
Romantico (JPN)	Kazuo Fujisawa (Japan)
Royal Marine (IRE)	Saeed bin Suroor (Dubai)
Royal Meeting (IRE)	Saeed bin Suroor (Dubai)
Sergei Prokofiev	Aidan O'Brien (Ireland)
Shir Khan (GB)	Paul Cole (England)
Spanish Mission	David Simcock (England)
Superior	Ahmad bin Harmash (Dubai)
Sydney Opera House (GB)	Aidan O'Brien (Ireland)
The Irish Rover (IRE)	Aidan O'Brien (Ireland)
Town Bee	Doug Watson (Dubai)
U S S Michigan	Aidan O'Brien (Ireland)
Van Beethoven	Aidan O'Brien (Ireland)
Walking Thunder	Ahmad bin Harmash (Dubai)
Western Australia (IRE)	Aidan O'Brien (Ireland)
Zeruch	Mikio Matsunaga (Japan)

AUCTION PURCHASE PRICE

Gun It	\$2,600,000	KEESEP17
Instagrand	\$1,200,000	FTFMAR18
Sergei Prokofiev	\$1,100,000	KEESEP17
Seclusive	\$1,050,000	KEENOV16
Litany	\$1,000,000	FTSAUG17
Rubin Hurricane	\$1,000,000	KEESEP17
All About Will	\$975,000	KEESEP17
Moretti	\$900,000	FTSAUG17
Oxburger	\$900,000	KEESEP17
Liberty's Pursuit	\$850,000	KEESEP17
Scalper	\$850,000	FTFMAR18
Bellafina (f)	\$800,000	FTFMAR18
Seismic Jolt	\$800,000	OBSAPR18
Dessman	\$750,000	FTFMAR18
Intrepid Heart	\$750,000	OBSAPR18
Oggonis	\$750,000	FTSAUG17
Current	\$725,000	KEESEP17
Koa	\$725,000	OBSMAR18
Martial Eagle	\$725,000	KEESEP17
Samaronti	\$725,000	KEESEP17
Bandon Woods	\$700,000	FTSAUG17
Boldor	\$700,000	OBSAPR18
Tapit Wise	\$700,000	KEESEP17
Awesome Wok N Roll	\$650,000	OBSMAR18
Federal Case	\$650,000	KEENOV18
Motagally	\$650,000	KEESEP17
New Mexico	\$650,000	FTSAUG17
Strong Union	\$650,000	FTSAUG17
Copper King	\$625,000	KEESEP17
Magnificent McCool	\$625,000	OBSAPR18
Mucho Gusto	\$625,000	EASMay18
Outshine	\$625,000	KEESEP17
Galilean	\$600,000	BARAPR18
Much Better	\$600,000	KEENOV16
Fort Worth	\$550,000	OBSMAR18
Market King	\$550,000	KEESEP17
U S Navy Cross	\$550,000	KEESEP17
Roadster	\$525,000	KEESEP17
Thomas Shelby	\$525,000	FTFMAR18
Harmon	\$500,000	OBSMAR18
Hitch	\$500,000	OBSAPR18

MISCELLANEOUS (2019)

Winners	199	55.0%
Maidens	163	45.0%
Unraced Horses	72	19.9%
Did Not Races at age 2	109	30.1%

TRAINERS

Steve Asmussen	27
Bob Baffert	17
Chad Brown	17
Todd Pletcher	17
Mark Casse	11
Jerry Hollendorfer	11
Dallas Stewart	10
Dale Romans	9
Keith Desormeaux	7
Jeremiah Englehart	7
Jimmy Jerkens	7
Graham Motion	7
Bill Mott	7
Aidan O'Brien	7
Richard Mandella	6
Kenny McPeck	6
Mark Hennig	5
D. Wayne Lukas	5
Tom Amoss	4
Bret Calhoun	4
Mike Maker	4
Will VanMeter	4

HALL OF FAME TRAINERS

Steve Asmussen	27
Bob Baffert	17
Todd Pletcher	17
Jerry Hollendorfer	11
Bill Mott	7
Richard Mandella	6
D. Wayne Lukas	5
Shug McGaughey III	1

OWNERS (includes partnerships)

Calumet Farm	13
Gary Barber	7
Coolmore	7
West Point Thoroughbreds	7
Centennial Farms	6
Charles Fipke	6
Godolphin	6
Klaravich Stables	6
Winchell Thoroughbreds	6
Eclipse Thoroughbred	
Partners	5
Juddmonte Farms	5
Andrew Farm	4
Bloom Racing Stable	4
John Oxley	4
OXO Equine	4
Spendthrift Farm LLC	4

BREEDERS (includes partnerships)

Calumet Farm	6
Charles Fipke	6
Godolphin	6
Stonestreet Thoroughbred	
Holdings	5
Winchell Thoroughbreds	5
WinStar Farm	5
Fred W. Hertrich III	4
Juddmonte Farms	4
Martha Jane Mulholland	4

LEADING SIREs

Tapit	19
Into Mischief	15
Curlin	13
Cairo Prince	11
Uncle Mo	11
Candy Ride (ARG)	8
Union Rags	8
Flatter	7
Violence	7
Malibu Moon	6
Scat Daddy	6
Street Sense	6
Will Take Charge	6
Bodemeister	5
Distorted Humor	5
Exchange Rate	5
Ghostzapper	5
Pioneerof the Nile	5
Quality Road	5
Afleet Alex	4
Midnight Lute	4
Orb	4
Sky Mesa	4
Stay Thirsty	4
Super Saver	4
Take Charge Indy	4

STALLIONS WHO SIREd KENTUCKY DERBY WINNERS

Uncle Mo	11
Malibu Moon	6
Scat Daddy	6
Bodemeister	5
Distorted Humor	5
Pioneerof the Nile	5
Elusive Quality	1
Leroidesanimaux (BRZ)	1

KENTUCKY DERBY-WINNING SIREs

Street Sense	6
Orb	4
Super Saver	4
Animal Kingdom	2
Big Brown	2
Fusaichi Pegasus	1

Statistics updated through Feb. 3, 2019

2019 TRIPLE CROWN NOMINEES

(g) = gelding

(r) = ridgling

(f) = filly

Unnamed

(16) Carolina Sunrise

(16) Ford Gallop

(16) Morningbird

A

Achilles Warrior

Admiral Rous (IRE)

Admire

All About Will

Alwaysmining (g)

American Camp

Americandy

Amino

And Seek

Andor

Angelo's Corner (g)

Angelo's Pride (g)

Annualized

Anothertwistafate

Aquadini

Avie's Flatter

Award Winner

Awesome Wok N Roll

B

B P Rocket

Bandit Swanson

Bandon Woods

Bankit

Bellafina (f)

Bernin' Thru Gold (r)

Betterment

Big Scott Daddy

Blenheim Palace (IRE)

Blue Steel

Bodexpress

Boldor

Bourbon War

Brian's Spirit (g)

Brother Aaron

Brush Country (g)

By My Standards

C

Cabot

Cairo Cat

Cairo Cutie (f)

Cambre

Camgo

Capernaum

Casa Creed

Castle Casanova

Cave Run

Chase the Ghost

Chess Chief

Classy John

Code of Honor

Coliseum

Colliery

Come On Gerry

Comedian

Comical Ghost

Copper King

Corruze

Counter Offer

Country House

Courtyard

Cowboy Diplomacy

Curlaway

Current

Cutting Humor

D

Dabo (g)

Danfusi

Daring Disguise

Derby Date

Derma Louvre (JPN)

Dessman

Diamond Blitz

Dominant Force

Don Vito Corleone

Dorrance

Doups Point

Dream Maker

Dull Knife

Dunph (g)

Dyn

E

Easy Shot

Echo Alpha Six (g)

Ekati's Verve

Epic Dreamer

Escaped

Everfast

Exchequer

Extra Hope

Eye Cloud

F

Family Biz (r)

Fast Master

Fayette Warrior

Federal Case

Fifty Over (g)

Final Jeopardy

Final Say

Five Star General

Flawless Bourbon

Follow the Lute

Forloveofcountry

Fort Worth

Forty Under

Frank'sgunisloaded (g)

Frolic More

Frosted Grace

Frosted Ice

Fullness of Time

G

Galilean

Game Winner

Garter and Tie

Gates of Dawn

General Mo

Get the Prize

Global Campaign

Go Away

Going for Gold (g)

Good as Money

Gray Attempt

Gray Magician

Great Sense

Green Fleet

Growth Engine (g)

Gum Tree Lane (r)

Gun It

Gunmetal Gray

H

Hackberry
Haikal
Harmon
Harvey Wallbanger
Henley's Joy
He's Smokin Hot
Hidden Scroll
Higgins
High Amplitude
High Crime
Highest Honors
Highheelmomma (f)
Hitch
Hog Creek Hustle
Hold Your Tickets
Honest Mischief
Honoring Major
Honos Man

I

Icemeister
Identifier
Improbable
Incidentally
Inclusive (g)
Incorrigible
Instagrand
Into Morocco
Intrepid Heart
Inventing Blame
Inyan Najin
Irish Heatwave
Iwillpersevere

J

Jaywalk (f)
Jaywalker
Jeans n' Boots
Jerome Avenue
Jersey Agenda
Joeys Ace (g)
Jump for Alex
Just a Chance
Justinian

K

Kaziranga
Kentucky Wildcat
Kid Cantina (g)
King for a Day
King Ford
King of Speed
Kingly
Knicks Go
Knight's Cross
Koa

L

Lambeau
Last Judgment
Laughing Fox
Lea Ridge
Lemniscate
Liberty's Pursuit
Limonite
Litany
Long Range Toddy
Lord Dragon
Lucky Lee
Lunar Illusion
Lutsky

M

Machine Learning
Magnificent McCool
Malibu in Motion
Manny Wah
Mantra
Market King
Martial Eagle
Masaff (IRE)
Master Fencer (JPN)
Maximum Security
Maximus Mischief
Mayor Cobb (g)
Mercy Rule (g)
Metropol
Midnight Curfew
Mihos
Millwall
Miltontown
Mind Control
Mo Mississippi
Mo Reserve
Moonster
More Ice
Moretti
Motagally
Mr Money Bags (g)
Mr. Ankeny
Mr. Mike

Mr. Money
Much Better (r)
Mucho
Mucho Gusto
Muralist
Music to My Ears
Muskoka
My Legacy
My Super Mario

N

Napoleon's Empire
Network Effect
New Mexico
Next Gen
Ninth Street
Nitrous
No Rules
Nolo Contesto (r)
Not That Brady (g)

O

Oggonis
Olympic Runner (g)
Omaha Beach
Oncewewerebrothers (g)
One Bad Boy (r)
Our Braintrust
Outshine
Over Protective
Overdeliver
Owendale
Ownitifyouwantit
Oxburger

P

Passion Play
Perfect Speighty
Picasso
Pioneer Dancer
Pioneer Man
Play Money
Plug and Play
Plus Que Parfait (r)
Polar
Power End
Proschema
Punchline
Puttheglassdown

Q

Queen's Mason

R

Rafal
Reelfoot
Replete
Rivers Rising
Road Home
Roadster
Rocktitzway (g)
Roiland
Romantico (JPN)
Rotation
Rowayton
Royal Marine (IRE)
Royal Meeting (IRE)
Rubin Hurricane
Rye Humor
Ry's the Guy

S

Samaronti
Savagery
Sayyaaf
Scalper
Sea Note Darby
Seclusive
Seismic Jolt
Seismic Wave
Sergei Prokofiev
Shancelot
Shared Legacy
Shazier
Sheriff Brown (g)
Shining Through
Shir Khan (GB)
Shootin the Breeze
Signalman
Sir Winston
Six Shooter (g)
Skywire
Skywriting

Sleepy Eyes Todd
Sly
So Alive
Soldado
Somelikeithotbrown
Souper Jackpot
Southern King
Spanish Mission
Spectacular Gem
Speed App
Spinoff
Standard Deviation
Still Dreaming
Stilts
Stock Chain
Street Class
Strike Silver
Strong Union
Sueno
Super Steed
Superior
Sweet Giant
Sydney Opera House (GB)
Synthesis (r)

T

T Bones Trick
Tacitus
Tap the Wire
Tapit Wise
Tax (g)
The Irish Rover (IRE)
The Right Path
Thetrashmanscoming
Thirsty Betrayal (g)
Thomas Shelby
Tiberius Mercurius
Tikhvin Flew
Time Is Now
Tivan (r)

Tizprocess
Tone Broke
Town Bee
Trifor Gold (g)
Tripwire
Trophy Chaser
Twelfth Labour

U

U Nomutt (g)
U S Navy Cross
U S S Michigan
Union Charm
Union's Destiny

V

Van Beethoven
Vekoma

W

Walker Stalker (g)
Walking Thunder
War of Will
Well Defined (g)
Wendell Fong
Western Australia (IRE)
Wicked Indeed
Win Win Win
World Affairs

Y

Young Phillip

Z

Zenden
Zeruch
Zoomer

-END-